

REASONS

HUMBLY SHEWING, THAT

The Continuing the *ACT* for a *FREE TRADE*
IN THE

Woollen Manufacture of England ;

With an Exception of the

Rivers *Elbe*, *Weser* and *Eyder*,

Will make the *BILL* of no Effect.

THE *Dutch* have Prohibited all Dyed Woollen Manufactures ; and all other Woollen Manufactures may be Carried into *Germany* thorow the Rivers *Elbe* and *Weser*, sooner and cheaper by Eight Pounds *per Cent.* than thorow *Holland*.

The chief Design of endeavouring the Continuance of the *Act For a Free Trade in the Woollen Manufacture*, was to have a Liberty to carry the same into *Germany*, without interruption thorow the Rivers *Elbe* and *Weser* ; because no Man can send any of the Woollen Manufactures thither any other way but with loss.

The *Hamborough* Company though they desire the Rivers *Elbe*, *Weser*, and *Eyder* to themselves, yet they are under Contract with the City of *Hamborough* not to send any Goods into *Germany*, but to *Hamborough* only thorow the River *Elbe* ; and do not use the Rivers *Weser* and *Eyder*, as the Governour of the said Company lately confest : And if they shall have the Rivers *Elbe*, *Weser*, and *Eyder* to themselves, they will wholly Obstruct a Free Trade in *English* Cloth, Serges, Sayes, Stuffs, and Stockings ; the Consequence whereof will quickly be felt by the Gentry and Clothiers of this Kingdom, and all others concerned in the Working of Wooll in *England*.

In the Reign of the late King *James*, the *Hamborough* Company Fined one *John Loveroe* a Member of their Company, Three hundred and seventy five Pounds, only for sending *English* Cloth into *Germany*, thorow the River *Weser*, which he actually paid ; and if the Bill pass into an Act, with an Exception of the Rivers *Elbe*, *Weser*, and *Eyder*, the same instead of giving a Free Liberty of Buying and Exporting the Woollen Manufacture of this Kingdom, will be a Prohibition of Trading therein to *Germany*, and contrary to several Statutes now in force.

The *Act for a Free Trade in the Woollen Manufacture* was made upon a Complaint of

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The Act for a Free Trade in the Woollen Manufacture, was made upon a Complaint of the Clothiers of *England*, of the Deadness of their Trade, and was to continue only Three Years, as an Experiment; and it had so good Effect, that from the Port of *London* onely, as was lately proved, there was Exported of the Woollen Manufacture of *England* to *Germany*, and the Places adjacent, the Value of Four hundred thousand Pounds, and more, over and above what was exported in the Three Years before, when the Trade was interrupted by the *Hamborough* Company. And great Encrease was during the Three Years, the Trade was open from other Ports: But by reason no Persons were in Town to prove the *Extracts* taken out of the said Ports, the same was omitted. And since a Free Trade thorow the Rivers *Elve*, *Weser*, and *Eyder*, hath been so Beneficial to Their Majesties, and to the Gentry and Clothiers of this Kingdom, it is humbly hoped, that the said Act for a Free Trade will be Continued, without any Exception of the Rivers *Elve*, *Weser* and *Eyder*; because such an Exception amounts not only to a Prohibition, but also to a Confirmation of the said Company's *Charter*.